

Applicants: David M. Stern et al.
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In the claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 36-37 under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c) as follows. A marked up version of amended claims 1 and 36-37 wherein the deleted material is in brackets and the inserted material is underlined is attached hereto as Exhibit A. Please also cancel claim 5 without prejudice or disclaimer to applicants right to pursue the subject matter of this claim in a later-filed application.

--1. (4x amended) A method for evaluating the ability of a compound to inhibit neurotoxicity which comprises:

(a) contacting a cell which expresses (i) a receptor for advanced glycation end product (RAGE) protein and (ii) a mutant presenilin-2 protein with the compound,

wherein the cell is in a cell culture and is selected from the group consisting of a neuronal cell, an endothelial cell, a glial cell, a microglial cell, an astrocyte, a neuronal tumor cell, a PC12 cell, a mononuclear cell, a mononuclear phagocyte, a smooth muscle cell, a bone cell and a myocyte, and

wherein the mutant presenilin-2 protein causes increased basal apoptosis in the cell;

(b) adding amyloid-beta peptide to the cell culture to

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induce cell death;

(c) determining the level of cell death in the cell culture;
and

(d) comparing the level of cell death determined in step (c)
with the level of cell death determined in the absence of
the compound so as to evaluate the ability of the
compound to inhibit neurotoxicity.--

--11. (3x amended) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises
a compound which inhibits neurotoxicity in a cell which
expresses receptor for advanced glycation end product
(RAGE) and mutant presenilin-2 identified by the method
of claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.--

--36. (2x amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell
expresses human RAGE.--

--37. (2x amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell
expresses N141 mutant presenilin-2.--

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 11-12 and 34-37 were pending in the subject application. Applicants have hereinabove canceled claim 5 without prejudice or disclaimer to applicants right to pursue the subject